



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT AND TEACHER QUALITY PROGRAMS

July 22, 2009

Marietta Rives
Iowa Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
400 E. 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Ms. Rives:

On May 19, 2009, the Iowa Department of Education (IDE) submitted a response to the monitoring report that resulted from a program review conducted by the Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs office of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. The program office team reviewed your State's progress in meeting the highly qualified teacher provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and your State's administration of the ESEA Title II, Part A Improving Teacher Quality State Grants program. Thank you for sending this response to the monitoring report.

This response, in combination with additional information submitted on June 19, July 17, and July 20, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. In particular, the IDE is doing the following: making corrections to how it determine the highly qualified status of teachers who come from outside the State; making additional efforts to ensure that parents are properly notified when their children are taught by teachers who are not highly qualified; ensuring that all districts that require funding agreements, as per Section 2141(c) of the ESEA, have such agreements in place; ensuring that school districts have strategies in place to address the equitable distribution of qualified and experienced teachers; and ensuring that equitable services are provided to non-public schools with Title II, Part A State-level activity funds. The Department will follow up with the IDE to ensure that progress is being made on these issues and that all agreed upon deadlines are met.

During the State agency for higher education (SAHE) portion of the monitoring review, the program team determined that there were no findings and that the SAHE had satisfied all requirements.

We commend your excellent work in responding to the concerns raised by the monitoring report. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to ensure that all teachers meet the highly qualified requirements and to help improve the delivery of ESEA Title II, Part A services in Iowa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Witt".

Elizabeth A. Witt
Program Officer

cc: Diana Gonzalez

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